

# The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

June 2012 Edition

## Welcome!

Summer has arrived! As you begin making plans for how you will enjoy your summer months, I wanted to share with you informational programs, services and area events happening throughout our District Two community and Howard County.

Know of any great community events? Please share them with me so that they can be reviewed for inclusion in this newsletter!

Want to share your thoughts on

legislation under consideration by the County Council? I've included towards the end of this edition opportunities on how you can do so.

Please feel free to share this Bulletin with friends, neighbors, and community organizations. If you don't already receive this bulletin directly and would like to subscribe, email me at

[cbball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cbball@howardcountymd.gov) and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

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## Affordable Housing Opportunities in Howard County – MIHU Enrollment Opens!

Howard County Housing is pleased to announce the July open enrollment period for the County's Moderate Income Housing Unity (MIHU) program. The enrollment period will run from **Monday, July 2 through Tuesday, July 31**. The MIHU program is an inclusionary zoning program that requires developers of new housing in certain zoning districts to sell or rent a percentage of the new dwelling units to households of moderate income.

Housing will also hold a free "MIHU Buyers and Renters Workgroup" on **Wednesday, July 18 6-7:30pm** at the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive. Rental management addresses and phone numbers as well as details on how to apply can be found online at [www.howardcountymd.gov/housingmihu.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/housingmihu.htm). For more details, call 410-313-6318.

## Happy July 4<sup>th</sup> – Lakeside Festival and County Office Closings!



Join the community in celebration of our nation's independence. The July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival run from 5-10pm and will feature live entertainment on two stages, carnival games, crafts and kid's entertainment! Bring a picnic or purchase food from on-site vendors. For a complete schedule of Festival events, visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/july4th.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/july4th.htm). Parking is free. Rain date is July 5.

Howard County Government offices, courts, animal shelter, senior centers and the landfill will be closed in observance of the Independence Day holiday on Wednesday, July 4, 2012. Parking meters in the County will be FREE on **Wednesday, July 4**. Also, there will be no trash, recycling or yard waste pick-up on Independence Day and the County's holiday "slide" schedule will be in effect. The 9-1-1 Call Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. County offices will re-open at regular business hours on Thursday, July 5

## PlanHoward 2030 – UComment!

Council Bill 26, also known as PlanHoward 2030, is currently under consideration by the County Council. PlanHoward 2030 is the next General Plan to create a sustainability framework for enhancing our economy, environment and quality of life. Residents are asked to share their feedback with the Council to help shape a shared vision for the County's future.

UComment is the online tool residents can use to submit comments, thoughts, or concerns and is accessible online at <http://ecom.howardcountymd.gov/proposedplanhoward2030/Default.aspx>. For details on the Plans evolution over the past year and following its path to be prefiled with the County Council, visit <http://www.planhoward.org/>.

Upcoming important dates for Work Sessions on PlanHoward 2030: **Monday, July 2 4:30pm and Monday, July 9 at 4:30pm.**



## Enjoy Fresh Fruits, Vegetables and Other Locally Grown Food at a Farmers Market Near You!

Summertime is the perfect opportunity to go out in your local community and take advantage of our local farmers' markets. Buying local products helps our local economy and provides our residents a perfect opportunity to taste the freshest, most delicious products. This season you will find ripe produce, baked goods, fruits of the season, flowers, transplants, organically grown produce and specialty items. See below for a list of farmer's markets closest to you as well as important dates and times of operation.

**Oakland Mills Village Center, 5851 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia**

Hours of Operation: Sundays through November 18 from 9am-1pm

**Howard County Library – East Columbia Branch, 6600 Cradlerock Way in Columbia**

Hours of Operation: Thursdays through November 15 2-6pm

WIC & Senior FMNP checks accepted at all markets. For a complete list of locations or for more details, visit [www.HowardCountyFarmersMarkets.com](http://www.HowardCountyFarmersMarkets.com).

## Paint It! Ellicott City!

Artists from around the region will take to the streets of Historic Ellicott City beginning **July 5 through July 8** to participate in the plein air paint-out event, Paint It! Ellicott City. En plein air is the technique of painting outdoors, directly from life. The Howard County Arts Council, Howard County Tourism and Howard County Public Schools are presenting this paintout weekend culminating in an exhibit of 28 juried artists at the Howard County Center for the Arts.

The weekend begins with an artist & VIP welcome reception at the Howard County Welcome Center on **Thursday, July 5 6-7:30pm**. Then, all day on July 6-8, artists will set up their easels around Ellicott City's historic district and paint the picturesque mill town. Members of the public are encouraged to come watch the local artists in action while strolling Main Street's sidewalks. On Sunday, in the Sunday Market near Mat About You Gallery, there will be a Painting Preview from 10am-2pm. For more details and a schedule, visit <http://www.visithowardcounty.com/arts-culture/paint-it-ellicott-city>.

## Attention Long Reach Residents... Beautify Your Cul-de-Sacs!

The Long Reach Community Association is offering landscaping grants, up to \$200 if your plan is approved which could include purchase of plant materials. Coupons will also be given to local nurseries to help stretch those dollars! Grants are limited, so hurry and apply. Application packets will be available **Memorial Day through August 30** at the Stonehouse or call **410-730-8113**.

## Share Your Opinion on the Howard County Public School System!

You are cordially invited to share your comments on the Howard County Public School System through the Goal 2 Survey. This survey measures your attitudes in five categories: welcoming environment, physical environment, discipline, nurturing learning environment and diversity/commonality. Your responses should reflect your feelings about the school your child attends. To participate, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Goal2ParentEnglish>. For assistance or for more info, call **410-313-7475** or **410-313-6755**.

## Equal Business Opportunity Initiative!

Howard County Government is committed to fostering a strong socio-economic environment by promoting diversity and inclusiveness in its purchasing activities. To this effect, the County's Equal Business Opportunity Program is designed to enhance opportunities and increase participation of minority, woman and disabled business enterprises. For more information on how your business can benefit from this program, contact **Mahesh Sabnani**, Equal Business Opportunity Coordinator, Office of Purchasing at **410-313-3694**. Mr. Sabnani will be pleased to provide your business with guidance, assistance and direction.

## Help Those in Need - Route 1 Day Center and Living in Recovery Needs Your Help!

The Day Resource Center relies on donations and volunteers to make meaningful contributions to the lives of those they serve. Please consider by helping by donating the following items that are in short supply: Batteries, men's underwear, men's jeans, thermal socks, bottled water – 20oz size, Gatorade, peanut butter and jelly, tuna, canned chicken, chef Boyardee-15oz can, spaghetti-15oz can, chunky soups, dinty moore beef stew, baked beans with meat, underwood deviled ham, libby's canned corned beef, Vienna sausages, spam, beef jerky and canned fruit. There are also volunteer opportunities at the Center and outside the Center. Please check their website for current lists of supply and volunteer needs at [www.daycenter.org](http://www.daycenter.org).

Living in Recovery is a new nonprofit organization formed to provide sober housing for persons in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction. As they plan to open doors on their second house in July, they are turning to the community for furniture donations. Items in good condition should include: mattress (box springs and frames for twin), pillows, bedding sets, twin or full size only, dressers, night stands, bed lamps, sofas, arm chairs, end tables, floor lamps, dining table and chairs, folding chairs, coffee maker, toaster, toaster oven, microwave, vacuum cleaner, dinnerware, glassware, flatware, cookware, iron and board, towels bath mats, shower curtains, window coverings and drapes or shades. If you can help, please email Joe at [JWillmott@verizon.net](mailto:JWillmott@verizon.net).

## Long Reach Residents – Pool Parties 2012!

With the heat beginning to rise, the Long Reach pools are open for your enjoyment! There will be two parties hosted: **Monday, July 16** at Kendall Ridge and **Tuesday, July 17** at Jeffers Hill both will run 6-8:30pm. This is a perfect opportunity to engage with your neighbors, enjoy games a rockin' DJ, refreshments and swimming. This is open to Long Reach residents only – and no unattended children will be permitted.

There is a maximum of 3 children per adult and residents may only attend one party. One non-perishable food item (no glass containers) required for each FREE ticket. Please check the expiration date – no expired items will be accepted and all donations will go directly to the Howard County Food Bank. Tickets will be available through **July 14**. For more info, call **410-730-8113**.

## Howard County Film "Feasitval" and Farm-2-Table Restaurant Week Kick-Off!



Enjoy local flavors and creative recipes from your favorite Howard County restaurants and farms. Restaurants will be serving up samples of their Farm-2-Table menus and farmers on **Tuesday, July 17, 2012 6-9pm** at Clark's Elioak Farm, 10500 Clarksville Pike in Ellicott City. Visit fun, educational exhibits. Tickets are \$5 and residents can register online at <http://www.visithowardcounty.com/film-feastival>. For details, call **410-313-2707**.

## Youth Police Academy Now Recruiting!

Calling all youth! The Howard County Police Department invites our young people to explore career and leadership opportunities during a FREE, one-week, overnight activity designed to help develop life skills and character education. Participants spend the week at the James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center and participate in classroom instruction, practical applications and scenarios. It will run **July 22-27, 2012**.

For more details, call **Debbie Gunn** at **410-313-2620**.

## Summertime Youth Activities – “Community Athletic Program” Continues

The Howard County Police Department is kicking off its mobile Community Athletic Program (CAP) for the summer at Talbott Springs Pool in Columbia on **Monday, July 2**. CAP is a traveling recreation center that provides constructive activities for youth during the summer. The mobile unit consists of a traveling trailer filled with sports gear, games and video game equipment and is staffed by a school resource officers and other youth services officers.

The trailer will visit a different neighborhood each day of the week and then return to that neighborhood on the same day in subsequent weeks. The program is an integral part of the agency’s multi-faceted crime0fighting and anti-gang strategy. CAP runs from July 2 through August 17, Monday through Friday 9am-4:30pm. There will be no CAP on July 4 or during the week of July 23-27. The schedule is as follows:

<b>Mondays</b>	<b>Talbott Springs Pool, 9660 Basket Ring Road, Oakland Mills</b>
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>Ridgley Run Community Center, 8400 Mission Road, Jessup</b>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>Celebration Community Church, 6080 Foreland Garth, Long Reach</b>
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel</b>
<b>Fridays</b>	<b>East Columbia Branch, Howard County Library, 6600 Cradle Rock Way, Owen Brown</b>

## P.L.E.D.G.E. Leadership Camp!

The P.L.E.D.G.E. Leadership Camp is a one week program designed to deter rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade students from the lures of gang activity. Through a series of discussions and practical activities, participants learn the value of team work and develop leadership skills. Lessons and activities challenge their ability to make critical decisions, focus on core beliefs and values, recognize diversity and accept these differences as they work together towards a common goal. Camp runs **August 13-16, 2012**.

For more details, please call **Debbie Gunn** at **410-313-2620**.

## Block Party Kits Now Available in Long Reach!

Party with your neighbors this summer! Holding a block party is a fabulous way to meet new neighbors and catch up with old friends. Free planning kits, including helpful tips are now available at Stonehouse for parties between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Enjoy free copies of your invitations and even a \$25 grocery store gift certificate to help purchase supplies. For more info, stop by the Stonehouse or call **410-730-8113**.

## Long Reach Residents – Beautify Your Cul-De-Sac!

Looking to make improvements to your cul-de-sac? The Long Reach Community Association is now offering landscaping grants that could provide you and your community up to \$200 if your plan is approved to be used to purchase plant materials and receive coupons from local nurseries to help stretch your dollars! Grants are limited and applications will available until **August 30, 2012** for pickup at Stonehouse. For more info, call **410-730-8113**.

## Attention High School Students - Educational College Tours!

FDTours Educational College Tours is devoted to the intellectual advancement of America’s youth. They offer round trip college tours to Colleges and Universities throughout the country. Tours are specifically designed for the high school students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 and for the student who is looking for a broader selection during the college search.

There are two upcoming tours during summer 2012. The Summer Sizzle Tour will take place **Wednesday, August 8, 2012** and depart from Howard High School at 9am. The tour will feature the following: University of Maryland College Park and Howard University with a bonus visit to Six Flags. The bus will return to Howard HS at 9pm. The Capitol Tour will be held on **Monday, September 17, 2012** and will depart from Howard High School at 8am. The tour will feature the following visits: Georgetown University, Catholic University, George Washington, and American University.

The bus will return to Howard HS at 8pm. The tour includes roundtrip transportation, breakfast and onboard snacks. There is a cost of \$99/per person per tour. Register online at [www.FDTours.com](http://www.FDTours.com). For additional information, call **410-262-6482** or email [FD@fdtours.com](mailto:FD@fdtours.com).

## National Night Out 2012 Save the Date!



On **Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>**, communities are encouraged to participate in National Night Out. This is a unique crime/drug prevention event which involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, local businesses and neighborhood organizations which is designed to: strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

If your neighborhood is interesting in hosting a NNO event, call **410-313-2200**.

## Volunteer of the Year Nominations Now Sought!

We are currently seeking nominations for the 2012 "Volunteer of the Year" Awards program. Do you know an outstanding individual (youth and adults), non-profit organizations or governmental agencies, and for-profit organizations or community groups that have demonstrated commitment and dedication to our community? If so, you're encouraged to submit their name for consideration. The deadline is **Friday, September 7, 2012** and forms are available online at [www.howardcountymd.gov/voy.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/voy.htm). For more details, call 410-313-2023.

## "Your Local Career Connection" Helps In Your Search For Employment!

Howard County's Office of Workforce Development is here for you! The center is geared towards meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in the 21st century labor market. They provide companies and individuals ranging from professional, technical and managerial to entry level. It offers residents a variety of tools to aid in a job search. The full service center is equipped with computers, fax machines, telephones, internet access and copiers – all to assist you with your employment search. Customized recruitment events are held for businesses and space is available to use for interviewing.

For more details, visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=1863> or call **410-290-2620**. The calendar of events is online at <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/county/howard/howcal.shtml>.

## FREE Career Advancement and Computer Training for Adults!

Find a job or move up in your current position! This opportunity is **FREE** for low- to moderate-income residents of Howard County. Registration is **Mondays 10am-2pm** or by appointment and is located at Pinnacle Career Resources, Chartwell Professional Park, 8180 Lark Brown Road, Suite 301 in Elkridge. For more details, call Cindy at **410-799-1097**.

## Share Your Opinion on the 2012-2013 HCPSS Calendar!

The HPSS Calendar Committee is currently developing a calendar proposal for the 2012-2013 school year. Your input is very important in the process, especially when changes are under consideration. Take a brief moment to share your thoughts by answering a few questions on the survey. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PR2B2ST>.

## Calling All Youth... Voices for Change Youth Coalition Seeks Your Help!

Are you interested in making positive change in your community by working on issues important to you? Would you like to get to know other students from high schools around the county? Would you like to be a part of the team of students and adults that organize the annual Youth Summit? Then Voices for Change Youth Coalition is for you!

General Student Membership is limited to Howard County high school students (public, private and/or home school) and Howard County 8<sup>th</sup> grade students (public, private and/or home school). Students must be in good standing with their respective school to be eligible. Active membership is defined as participating in at least 60% of the total meetings throughout the year. Meetings are twice a month on alternating Tuesdays from 5-7pm and dinner is provided. Meetings are held at HC Recreation & Parks located at 7120 Oakland Mills Road in Columbia. For more details, check out the website at [www.HCYouth.org](http://www.HCYouth.org) or contact **Meg Mekelburg** at [MMekelburg7@verizon.net](mailto:MMekelburg7@verizon.net).



## Vacancies on Howard County's Boards and Commissions

Howard County Government is actively seeking volunteers to serve on several Boards and Commissions. Below you will find details including information on how to apply.

- **Alcohol & Drug Abuse Advisory Board.** Board members serve five year terms and help review services and the need for services relating to alcohol or drug abuse education, treatment and prevention in Howard County. Candidates must be 18yrs or older, have an interest in drug and alcohol treatment and prevention services and be able to attend the Board's meetings on the third Wednesday of each month from 5:15-6:30pm. For details, call **410-313-6225**.
- **Board of Social Services.** Board members serve three year terms and provide advice on the application and formulation of state policies, procedures and programs that apply to Howard County and to evaluate the local director of the Department of Social Services. Candidates must be Howard County residents, 18yrs or older, have an interest in social services, and be able to attend the Board's meetings held the third Monday of each month at 4pm in the Department of Social Services Conference Room, 7121 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia. For details, call **410-872-8767**.
- **Commission for Women.** Commission members serve five year terms and help to promote the economic, social and political equality of women in Howard County. The Commission publicizes services and activities of interest to women, promotes a positive image of women and recognizes their accomplishments, encourages the expansion of educational and employment opportunities for women and sponsors workshops and seminars on issues specific to women. Candidates must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in women equality and be able to attend the Commission's meetings which are held the second Tuesday of each month from 7-9pm in the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia. For details, call **410-313-6400**.
- **Consumer Affairs Advisory Board.** Board members serve five year terms and are responsible for reviewing the Office of Consumer Affairs programs, holding public hearings as deemed necessary and making recommendations to the Office on how it may better carry out its duties. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in consumer issues and be able to attend the Board's meetings which are held the third Wednesday of each month from 7-9pm at the Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way in Columbia.
- **Board of Electrical Examiners.** Commission is comprised of seven members who serve five year terms and must include two licensees under electrical regulations or representatives of an electrical inspection bureau, one electrical engineer and four general public members. Board members are responsible for making recommendations to the Director of Inspections, Licenses and Permits (DILP), the County Executive and the County Council on all matters relating to electrical work in Howard County, including the conduct of electrical business and licenses. To be eligible, candidates must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older and have an interest in electrical work. The Board meets on an as needed basis; meetings are held at 5pm in DILP, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City. For more info, visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/electricalexaminersboard.htm> or call **410-313-1820**.
- **Recreation & Parks Advisory Board – Student Member.** The Board is comprised of nine voting members who serve five year terms and one student, non-voting member, who serves a one-year term from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. The Advisory Board provides recommendations related to plans, policies and programs for public recreation and reviews plans for and hold hearings on the acquisition and development of land for public recreation and open space. Candidates must be Howard County residents, under the age of 18 years old, have an interest in recreation and parks and be able to attend the Board's meetings which are held approximately once a month throughout the year beginning at 7:30pm at the Department of Recreation and Parks Headquarters, 7120 Oakland Mills Road in Columbia. For details, call **410-3131-4700** or visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP).

Applicants should send a resume and a brief letter explaining why they want to serve to: Howard County Government, Department of County Administration, Attn: Susan Smith-Bauk, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

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## Make a Difference In a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to Howard County public school students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chava Kanlan at [aokmentor@email.com](mailto:aokmentor@email.com) or call **410-730-6030**

## CAC's Weatherization Program Changes Eligibility Requirements to

The Community Action Council administers the Weatherization program for the State of Maryland. Recently, the State has changed the eligibility criteria for the program to include moderate income families. As such, the program is no longer only targeting low income families. Based upon the new guidelines, many friends and family members might be eligible for this wonderful **FREE** service.

Is your home energy efficient? Determine if you are eligible for **FREE** weatherization services. Maximum family income for eligibility is as follows:

Family Size	Gross Monthly Income
1	\$4,079
2	\$4,663
3	\$5,242
4	\$5,821
5	\$6,292

Applications are available online at [http://cac-hc.org/cac\\_howtoapplyweatherization.htm](http://cac-hc.org/cac_howtoapplyweatherization.htm). For more info, call 410-313-1181.



## Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard county Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.

## BRAC Corner!

Are you a business owner interested in becoming a contractor or already a Defense Contractor looking for additional information?

The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) is inviting businesses interested in accessing government contracting opportunities and becoming a qualified prime or sub-contractor to register with the BBI's new Match-Up Database. A number of defense contractors and government agencies are already using the Match-Up Database to determine which BBI businesses may possess the capabilities they require. Many companies registered in the Database have already been selected to meet with large prime contractors to partner and increase business.

Here is a list of the upcoming meetings:

- **Thursday, June 28, 2012 12-1:30pm** at 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Room 1W in Columbia. BBI Brown Bag: Importance of Bonding, No Surety = No Contract. FREE to attend; water and snacks provided.
- **Tuesday, July 31 8-10am** at The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place #3 in Columbia. Agenda includes General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT), BBI Program Update and Extreme Networking. FREE to attend. Reservations are not required.

The database is **FREE** of charge and open to all local companies interested in generating more business within the defense community. The Match-Up Database can be found at <http://www.selfvetting.com/events/BBI/APL/> and registering in the database automatically makes a company a member of the BBI.

## Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ridge launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact **Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble** at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email [volunteer@neighborride.org](mailto:volunteer@neighborride.org) for more information.

## Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

**TAX CREDITS:** The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at

<http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling **410-313-4076**. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

**Senior Tax Credit:** <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

**Homeowners Tax Credit:** <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

**Homestead Tax Credit:** <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

**Energy Conservation Credit:** <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

**Daycare Provider Tax Credit:** <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

**Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit:** <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

**Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:**

<http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

**Community Associations Tax Credit:** <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

**Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit:** <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

**Trash Collection Fee Credit:** <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

## Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

**4H Club:** Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at The Other Barn 3:30-5pm. For youth in grades 3 and above Call **410-992-3726** for more info

**Howard County Library** [www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22](http://www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22)

**FINALLY! Something to Do in Howard County** [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379)

**Youth Howard County** [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts)

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

## Health Care Options For You or Your Family!

The "Door to HealthCare" provides for the consolidation of applications and application processes for the numerous health programs available for those who are under/uninsured. Individuals sit down with a counselor or work alone at a kiosk to enter personal data (including: family make0up, income, etc.) which will determine the programs for which you and/or family members are eligible. The information will quickly be transferred electronically into the proper application and the process is complete. Services provided include: MCHP, MA, PAC and the Healthy Howard Health Plan.

"The Door to HealthCare" is located to the rear of **7178 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia, MD**. For further information, call **410-988-3737**.

## Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, 5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are 9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. Other times may be considered. For more information, call **410-992-1923 x 14**.

## Do You Need Bulk-Item Pick-Up?

Bulk Trash Item pick-up has resumed but items must be scheduled by calling **410-313-6444** or visiting [www.HowardCountyBulkPickup.org](http://www.HowardCountyBulkPickup.org). These items typically do not fit in trash cans and could include mattresses, chairs, sofas, dressers, tables, etc. Bulk METAL Item pick-up began starting **October 1, 2012** and must be scheduled in advance by calling **410-313-6444**. Items must be placed at the curb by 6am (no earlier than 6pm the night before). Please do not block mailboxes or fire hydrants. **NOTE:** It is illegal for anyone except Howard County's contractors to pickup scrap metal at the curb (Howard Countv Code 18.610)



## Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- **Experiencing an Emergency?** Dial 9-1-1
- **Want to report an incident, non-emergency?** Call 410-313-2200
- **Need to report drug activity?** Call 410-290-3784 or email [ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov)
- **Want to make an anonymous tip** (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email [GangTips@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:GangTips@howardcountymd.gov)
- **Want to report gun crimes?** Call 410-313-7867 or email [CToler@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CToler@howardcountymd.gov).
- **Do you need Victim Assistance?** Call 410-313-3712 or email [KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov)
- **Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey?** Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- **Want to start a Neighborhood Watch?** Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- **Looking to prevent Auto Theft?** Helpful tips available at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=6442451452>
- **Want to report an animal cruelty incident or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.?** Call 410-313-2780, email [animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov) or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- **Are speeders in your neighborhood?** Consider the SMART Program initiative. Info available at [www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd\\_smartprogram.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_smartprogram.htm)
- **Looking for personal safety tips?** Visit [www.co.ho.md.us/police/pd\\_personalsafety.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/police/pd_personalsafety.htm)
- **Interested in a Police Ride-Along?** Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- **Need a HCPD Spanish line?** Call 410-313-7807.
- **Interested in volunteering with the HCPD?** Call 410-313-2255
- **Interested in HCPD Recruitment?** Call 410-313-4273.

## “Guaranteed Ride Home” Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. “Guaranteed Ride Home” offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register online at [www.commuterconnections.org](http://www.commuterconnections.org) or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).

## Medicare Patients – Looking for a Local Doctor!

The Medicare.gov site is the place to find information about Medicare. The webpage provides detailed information about the basics of Medicare, resources, preventative health care and much more. If you’re looking for a local doctor who accepts Medicare, visit [www.Medicare.gov/find-a-doctor](http://www.Medicare.gov/find-a-doctor). Fill in your zipcode and any preferences you might have and instantly you will be given a list of providers in your area! For more details, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

## How and When to Use the Emergency Room!

Remember in Howard County, there are a number of affordable alternatives to the Emergency Room if you are ill (coughs, colds, ear infections, minor burns, strains/sprains), but **not** experiencing a medical emergency. These “minute clinics” are a great resource to receive medical attention on a weekend, late night, or simply when your regular physician cannot see you. Many have extended and weekend hours and do not require appointments. Most accept insurance but please call the provider/clinic for details.

For additional information or a list of providers, contact our Health Department online at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Departments.aspx?ID=290> or call 410-313-6300.

## Recycling... Do’s And Don’ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/whatcanirecycle.htm> or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/recycling.htm>.

## In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at [www.grassrootscrisis.org](http://www.grassrootscrisis.org). The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

## Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: **1-800-506-5806**.

## At-Large Members Needed for Community Advisory Council!

The Community Advisory Council to the Board of Education is currently seeking at-large members for the coming school year. The council sponsors educational programming for members and provides the opportunity to study and have input into curriculum, educational policy, redistricting and budget.

The committee meets at **7:30pm** the third Tuesday of each month at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD. At-large members serve a two-year term. For more information, please call **410-313-6682** or email [tjmallo@verizon.net](mailto:tjmallo@verizon.net).

## Alzheimer's Early-Stage Programs Now Available!

The Alzheimer's Early-Stage Social Club meets Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00am-1:00pm. Pre-screening is required. To reserve your space and/or for pre-screening, call **Judy Miller** at **410-313-5441**. For more information on the Alzheimer's association, call **1-800-272-3900** or visit [www.alz.org/maryland](http://www.alz.org/maryland).

## Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/DisplayPrimary.aspx?ID=4294969242>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email [hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov) or call **410-313-2005**.

## View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Displayprimary.aspx?ID=4294968832>. Council meetings open to the public and I encourage you to join us. A list of upcoming meetings can be found online at <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/displayprimary.aspx?ID=6442459444>.

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[http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC\\_DistrictTwo.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm)

### I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click on the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/displayprimary.aspx?ID=6442459444>.

*"The ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."* ~ Albert Schweitzer

### RECYCLE your old TV's!

The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services would like to remind residents to recycle analog TV's rather than throw them away. Options: Alpha Ridge Landfill Resident's Convenience Area open 8am-4pm Mon-Sat and Best Buy's Customer Take-Back Program. For more info, call **410-313-6444**.